



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 279

LCO No. 1530



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

***AN ACT WAIVING ASSET LIMITS FOR WORKING PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES TO RECEIVE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 17b-597 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2016*):

4 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall amend the Medicaid
5 state plan to allow persons specified in subsection (a) of this section to
6 qualify for medical assistance. The amendment shall include the
7 following requirements: (1) That the person be engaged in a
8 substantial and reasonable work effort as determined by the
9 commissioner and as permitted by federal law and have an annual
10 adjusted gross income, as defined in Section 62 of the Internal Revenue
11 Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code
12 of the United States, as amended from time to time, of no more than
13 seventy-five thousand dollars per year; (2) a disregard of all countable
14 income up to two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level; (3) [for
15 an unmarried person, an asset limit of ten thousand dollars, and for a

16 married couple, an asset limit of fifteen thousand dollars; (4)] a
17 disregard of any retirement and medical savings accounts established
18 pursuant to 26 USC 220 and held by either the person or the person's
19 spouse; [(5)] (4) a disregard of any moneys in accounts designated by
20 the person or the person's spouse for the purpose of purchasing goods
21 or services that will increase the employability of such person, subject
22 to approval by the commissioner; [(6)] (5) a disregard of spousal
23 income solely for purposes of determination of eligibility; and [(7)] (6)
24 a contribution of any countable income of the person or the person's
25 spouse which exceeds two hundred per cent of the federal poverty
26 level, as adjusted for the appropriate family size, equal to ten per cent
27 of the excess minus any premiums paid from income for health
28 insurance by any family member, but which does not exceed the
29 maximum contribution allowable under Section 201(a)(3) of Public
30 Law 106-170, as amended from time to time.

31 Sec. 2. Section 17b-598 of the general statutes is repealed and the
32 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

33 The Commissioner of Social Services shall seek a waiver from
34 federal law to permit a person participating in the program established
35 under section 17b-597 to remain eligible for medical assistance under
36 the Medicaid program in the event such person is unable to maintain a
37 work effort for involuntary reasons. No such person shall be required
38 to make another application to determine continued eligibility for
39 medical assistance under the Medicaid program. In order to remain
40 eligible for such medical assistance, such person shall (1) request that
41 such assistance be continued for a period not to exceed twelve months
42 from the date of the involuntary loss of employment, and (2) maintain
43 a connection to the workforce as determined by the commissioner
44 during such period. At the end of the twelve-month period, such
45 person shall meet the eligibility criteria for the Medicaid program. [,
46 except that the commissioner shall disregard any assets specified in
47 subdivisions (4) and (5) of subsection (b) of section 17b-597.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	17b-597(b)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	17b-598

Statement of Purpose:

To provide incentives for working persons with disabilities to retain assets and qualify for medical assistance.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]